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Report/Article Title Memorandum from David A. Cole, Associate Deputy Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs to M. B. Oglesby, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, subject: Activities: Week of October 8-12, 1984, dated October 5, 1984

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Description Notes Gives brief summary of H.R. 5618, H.R. 1961, and H.R. 5688.



Date: October 5, 1984

To: M. B. OGLESBY
Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs

From: Associate Deputy Administrator for Congressional
and Intergovernmental Affairs (002)

Subj: Activities: Week of October 8-12, 1984

1. The Congress has finally approved two of the remaining three significant pieces of legislation affecting the Veterans Administration:

- o H.R. 5618, Veterans' Health Care Act of 1984. The House of Representatives approved the compromise language on October 2, returning the measure to the Senate which placed its stamp of approval thereon on October 3, thus clearing the bill for the President. The legislation contains the following provisions:
 - a. Increased security and law enforcement regulations shall be promulgated by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs;
 - b. Extension of authorization of appropriations for Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECC) for one year to September 30, 1985;
 - c. VA can acquire existing physical plants for State Veterans' Homes, instead of constructing new facilities exclusively;
 - d. Chief Medical Director may designate special programs for the diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD);
 - e. Administrator shall issue guidelines for treatment and rehabilitation of veterans for alcohol and drug dependence; and
 - f. Initiate a study of eligible veterans residing in remote areas who need VA health care services and develop alternative approaches of health care delivery.
- o H.R. 1961, Agent Orange and Atomic Veterans' Relief Act. The House of Representatives passed a compromise bill on October 3, the Senate on October 4, sending the bill to the President for signature. As passed, the legislation includes the following provisions:
 - a. Establish a modified VA compensation system as set forth in the House version; and
 - b. Establish a set procedure for the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to deal with relationships between exposure to Agent Orange/Ionizing Radiation and future diseases determined to be causally linked to such exposure.

o H.R. 5688, Veterans' Compensation Amendments for 1985. The Senate substituted its language and passed the bill on October 2, returning the legislation to the House of Representatives. It is anticipated the House will conclude action on the bill before it adjourns sine die. The bill should include the following significant points:

- a. Increase compensation for service-connected disabled veterans and DIC rates to 3.2%, effective December 1, 1984;
- b. Auto adaptive equipment and specially adapted housing assistance/home loan rates increase;
- c. 10% rate increase for G.I. Bill recipients, effective October 1, 1984;
- d. Veterans' Readjustment Appointment authority extended;
- e. Extend certain delimiting dates for veterans' emergency job authority;
and
- f. Maintain current policy regarding flat markers.

2. The VA was not affected by the government-wide shutdown on October 4, since our appropriation for FY 85 had been signed by the President in July.

David A. Cole

DAVID A. COLE